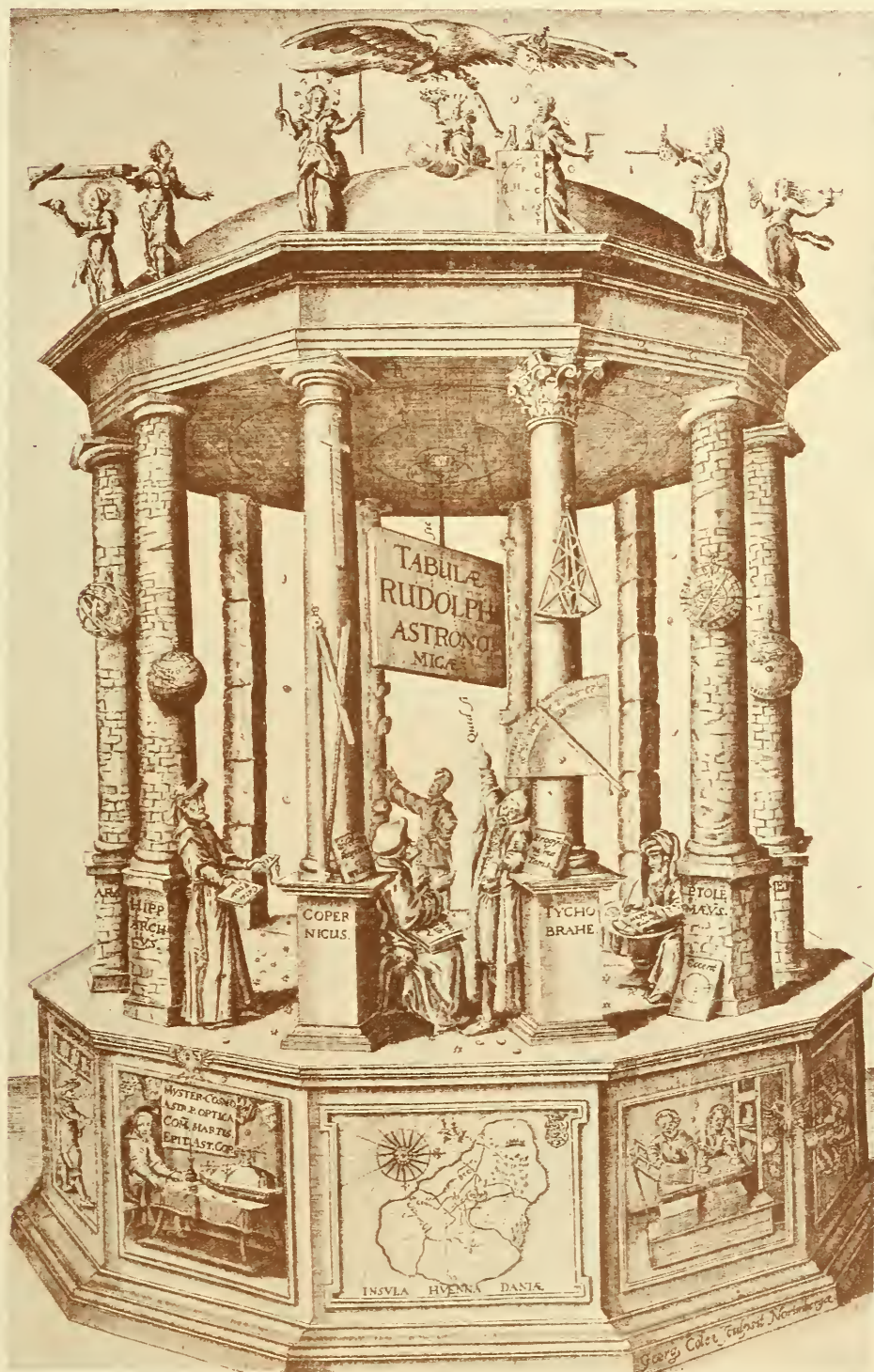


The Society of Bibliophiles at Brandeis University

# OCTAVO

An Occasional Communication

Number 1, Spring 1971



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# THE SOCIETY OF BIBLIOPHILES AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

Bern Dibner, *President*

David S. Berkowitz, *Editor*

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## Table of Contents

## OCTAVO

Number 1

### *Bibliographical Notes*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. The Kepler Quadricentennial                            | 3 |
| 2. The Bibliographical Game: Some Firsts<br>in Incunabula | 5 |
| 3. On Collection Building by our Members                  | 7 |

### *Collections*

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 4. Completion of a Stellar Gift: The Philip<br>D. Sang Collection of the Signers of<br>Independence | 9  |
| 5. One Xylograph and Twelve Incunables Later  | 10 |
| 6. In Search of a Donor: The Spanish Civil<br>War Collection  | 12 |

### *Exhibitions*

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 7. Typographica Arabica  | 14 |
| 8. The Karl Kraus Exhibit: The Oskar Samek Collection                  | 14 |
| 9. The Leonard B. Schlosser Exhibit on Paper<br>History and Technology | 16 |

### *News of the Society*

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 10. The Tenth Annual Meeting: June 12, 1971 | 16 |
| 11. Publications                            | 17 |
| 12. Membership and Gifts                    | 17 |
| 13. Personalalia                            | 18 |

### *Book Review*

- |                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| 14. Hobson's Choice | 19 |
|---------------------|----|

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## THE KEPLER QUADRICENTENNIAL

Man has ever turned his eyes to the skies and sought there signs of understanding the prime movers of the universe. God was there, and the life-giving sun. The friendly moon was the season's keeper of time and the planets helped the navigator fix his course. All moved in complex but predictable paths which the astronomers of the ages plotted with moderate success.

Modern times can be said to begin when Copernicus, taking a fresh view of the heavens, attempted in 1543 to provide a view of celestial rotation by shifting the center of the orbits of the moon and planets from around the earth to around the sun. This shattering idea slowly filtered into the minds of the learned and within a century Galileo was hailed before the Inquisition for daring to discuss such a possibility. But the early 1600's were times of intense investigation, exploration and discovery and the heavens were ripe for the telescope, logarithms and Johannes Kepler.

This year the world of science celebrates the 400th anniversary of the birth of Kepler and his brilliant contributions to the understanding of planetary orbital motion. He stands between the dramatic efforts of Galileo to examine the Copernican system of motion of the celestial bodies and the final resolution given by Newton in 1687, the universal law of gravitation and general laws of celestial motion. Kepler's approach was through mathematical intuition, daring and trial and error. Prompted by the conviction that there was mathematical regularity and order in the universal structure, Kepler, as early as age 25, conceived the notion that the elements of the solar system were related as a nest of the five regular geometric solids, one within the other. These were to provide the diameters of orbit of the planets and are shown in the extremely rare *Prodromus Dissertationum Cosmographicarum*, Tübingen, 1596.

From the publication of his *Mysterium-Cosmographicarum* in 1596 to his death in 1630, Kepler probed and integrated the accurate observations on planetary positions of his master and collaborator Tycho Brahe. When the latter died in 1601, Kepler acquired his data and by laboriously plotting the orbit of Mars (it took seven years), Kepler concluded that the planet's orbit was shaped, not like a 'perfect' circle, but like an ellipse. This was novel and daring indeed!



Excitement increased in 1604 when a new star appeared in the constellation Serpent and, as a practicing but skeptical astrologer, Kepler in 1606 published *De Stella Nova* in Prague. He related his nova to the star of Bethlehem, as it surpassed stars of the first magnitude in brightness. This book was followed by his magnum opus, the *Astronomia Nova*, Prague, 1609, containing Kepler's first two laws of planetary motion, the guide to all celestial observation. In this folio Kepler first referred planetary motion to the sun's position instead of to that of the earth and stated: (1) Planets describe ellipses about the sun in one focus. (2) The radius vector from sun to planet sweeps equal areas in equal times. In 1618, in Linz, Kepler published his *Harmonices Mundi* containing his third law which stated that the square of the period of orbital time was proportional to the cube of the mean distance from the sun. These laws led directly to Newton's formulation of his celestial mechanics. Kepler also sought Pythagorean numerical relationships in the "harmony of the spheres."

In the meantime an event of epochal importance occurred in Italy where Galileo devised a telescope, turned it toward the heavens and recorded nine discoveries, especially noting the orbiting of moons about Jupiter. Galileo's *Siderius Nuncius*, Rome, 1610, confirmed the author's conviction of the truth of the Copernican doctrine but this was suppressed during the following decades. It aroused Kepler to come to Galileo's support by publishing his *Dissertatio cum Nuncio Siderio* in Prague in 1610 at his own expense.

The illustration on the cover page sums up the progress in astronomy. It is the title page of Kepler's last great work, the *Tabulae Rudolphinae* of 1627. The new solid columns of Copernicus and Tycho Brahe are front and center; the crumbling columns of Hipparchus, Ptolemy, Aratus of Soli and Meton of Athens are pushed aside; and in the rear are even cruder columns without names, presumably representing the contributions of unknown observers of an even more remote antiquity. The base of the tempietto features two panels, one showing Kepler in his study and the other Brahe's Island of Huen. The graphic allegory, which encapsulates much history and bibliography, has been kindly furnished by the Burndy Library of Norwalk, Connecticut where from April 1 through August a display of books, letters, manuscripts and portraits will help celebrate the quadricentennial of Kepler's birth.

## THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC GAME: SOME FIRSTS IN INCUNABULA

Social upheavals and wars are paradoxically a boon to the collector. After the French Revolution and the two world wars of our century the dispersion of large and small collections created opportunities for a new generation of collectors to add to their riches and in some instances to endow new foundations around their expanded holdings. This was particularly true for incunabula. Although there had been some noteworthy collections assembled in this country during the 19th century, it was not until the liquidation which followed on the first World War that American collectors had their large-scale opportunity to inspect and acquire choice examples of incunabula. That the opportunity was not missed is reflected in the respective totals for titles contained in the two censuses which neatly bracket the period between the two wars. Winship's *Census* which appeared in 1919 contained 6,292 titles in 13,200 copies while Stillwell's revision (published in 1940) lists 11,132 titles in 35,232 copies. Goff's 1964 census saw only a small gain in titles at 12,599 while copies jumped to 47,188. In a sense the American collecting of incunabula came of age in the period between the wars.

One factor in this increase in incunabula was unquestionably the imaginative skill and drive of Lathrop C. Harper. Operating from a shop at 8 West 40th Street, New York, his five-part catalogue of a thousand incunabula appeared between 1928 and 1930. Carefully catalogued by Emma Miriam Lone, the list represented 394 presses from 88 different towns. In its own right, it was somewhat of a 'first,' being apparently the first fully described catalogue issued by an American bookseller which was exclusively devoted to fifteenth-century books. The cataloguer had worked carefully and the descriptions, collations and annotations are impeccable. The only oddity indeed is the systematic avoidance of identifying copies listed in Winship's *Census* although it is evident from occasional passing references that the work was at hand and consulted. Perhaps it was in partial atonement for the oversight that Winship was asked to contribute an introduction to the fifth and last installment of the catalogue.

In the same fifth part Miss Lone cast aside the anonymity which usually cloaks cataloguers and appeared as the contributor of a small 'Epilogue.' Its chief interest is the 'List of Firsts' which she provided and which was

subsequently expanded into a little brochure also printed in 1930 by the Southworth Press for Harper. We are reproducing here a portion of the short 'Epilogue' version, less for its scholarly value than as a kind of 'period piece' of American bibliography, *circa* 1928-1930. If it stimulates others to contribute similar exercises for other subjects, it will have served its purpose well.

First book printed in Germany:

DONATUS. *De octo partibus orationis.*

Mainz: Gutenberg.

[c. 1448]

First book printed in Italy:

DONATUS. *De octo partibus orationis.*

Subiaco: Sweynheym & Pannartz.

[1464]

First book printed in Switzerland:

GREGORIUS I. *Moralia in Job.*

Basel: Ruppel.

[n.a. 1468]

First book printed in France:

BARZIZIUS. *Epistulae.*

Paris: Kranz, Gering & Freiburger.

[1470]

First dated book printed in Holland:

COMESTOR. *Historiae scholasticae.*

Utrecht: Ketelaer & Leempt.

1473

First dated book printed in Austria-Hungary:

*Chronica Hungarorum.*

Buda-Pesth: Hess.

1473

First book printed in Belgium:

AENEAS SYLVIUS. *De duo amantibus.*

Alost: Paderborn & Martens.

1473

First book printed in Spain:

FENOLLAR. *Certamen poetich.*

Valencia: Palmart.

1474

First book printed in England:

*Dictes & Sayenges, &c.*

Westminster: Caxton.

1477

First book printed in Denmark:

CAORSIN: *De obsidione et bello Rhodiano.*

Odensee: Snell.

1482

First book printed in Sweden:

*Dialogus creaturarum.*

Stockholm: Snell.

1483

- First book printed in Portugal:  
*Pentateuchus (Hebrew)*.  
 Faro: [for Don Samuel Gacon]. 1487
- First book printed in Montenegro:  
 DAMASCENUS. *Oktoekhos*.  
 Rjeka: Makario. 1493-4
- First book printed in Turkey:  
 JACOB BEN ASHER. *Arba Turim*.  
 Constantinople: David & Samuel Nachmias. 1494

## ON COLLECTION BUILDING BY OUR MEMBERS

Not all our members know what other members of the Society give in the way of rare books to the library. Obviously it would make a rather lengthy catalogue and occupy more space than we have available to satisfy this kind of curiosity. In the summer of 1969 we made an effort to illustrate the variety of gifts received from members in an exhibition which was accompanied by a catalogue entitled *Libri Varii*. We think it might now be of interest to say something about the pattern of systematic or thematic collection building which has evolved in some cases. In illustrating these, it is not our intention to cast any slight on how other members present their gifts to the library.

Dating almost from the opening of the Goldfarb Library is the senior collection in point of time and undoubtedly the largest in point of size. Bern Dibner's gift of the da Vinci material enables us to rank with the Elmer Belt Library at U.C.L.A. and the Stevens Institute collection at Hoboken; the holdings at the University of Rochester are distinctly smaller. New da Vinci publications are added regularly by Mr. Dibner (in addition to other gifts) and so this collection grows systematically.

At the other extreme of the time span, last year Walter Goldwater launched a thematic collection of the early editions of Josephus, starting with the Venice 1499 imprint. Hopefully, if other incunable examples become available they will be added, but the second installment was a sixteenth century item (Strasbourg, 1574).

Edward Levy's American dime novel collection grows regularly but so do his three nineteenth century Anglo-American collections: wit and humor, theatre, songs and music — all welcome additions in areas where we have little strength.



To keep up the alteration of single and multiple-item collections, brings us to Arthur Vershbow's illustrated books, mainly sixteenth and seventeenth century examples of the technical developments in woodcut and engraving and their reflection of contemporary taste and fashion.

The collection of Daumier lithographs formed by Benjamin A. and Julia A. Trustman was so remarkably complete that it has been difficult for these indefatigable collectors to add much in recent years. Only one really outstanding auction has occurred since this gift entered the Library. But we believe that eventually additional white paper proofs and other rarities will be side by side with their mates and this collection will then be as complete as persistence and collecting diligence can possibly make it.

Finally, back in our own cradle days Philip Neufeld in addition to many other items laid the foundation for a collection of Aldines. There have been few additions in recent years, but copies that satisfy Philip Neufeld's standard for condition and binding are not commonly available on the market at any time.

Needless to say systematic collection building is welcomed by the Library. For one thing it permits the Library to plan its supporting reference materials with a sense of coherence and justification. And it provides a sense of relief in this period of tight budgets to know that there are areas of systematic, planned growth which go on year after year — and which are beyond the snipping shears of the budget-cutters.

There is an important postscript. Some of our members are building collections for us for subsequent transfer. In some cases we have been informed of the theme, for example Edward Levy's surprise announcement last year that he had been building a manuscript collection of British prime ministers' correspondence. Maury Bromsen, whose scholarly standing in the history and bibliography of Latin America is internationally known, has quietly acknowledged that he is assembling for Brandeis a collection dealing with this area of his long-established professional interest. In addition, Maury Bromsen has indicated that he is building a collection for Brandeis on another theme but prefers to capture some still elusive items before making a formal announcement. And other members have privately indicated that they are doing the same but for the time being want no public notice. There are of course many practical reasons for avoiding the publicity limelight and while we maintain the confidence of those involved, we still can not help but applaud the intent even if we can not now sing their praise.



COMPLETION OF A STELLAR GIFT:  
THE PHILIP D. SANG COLLECTION  
OF SIGNERS OF THE  
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Any attempt to catalogue last year's additions to the rare book collection at Brandeis would challenge a description of the magpie's treasure trove. But one lot simply defies polite academic restraint and all the more so in that it achieves that collector's ideal — or should we say nightmare — of completeness.

To anticipate a bit, what we are announcing for the first time is that Brandeis now can boast of a complete collection of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. The story both in its beginning and end revolves around that eminent collector, Bibliophile, and Brandeis benefactor, Mr. Philip D. Sang of Chicago. Those with good memories may recall the extraordinary exhibition of original documents of the American revolution which graced the early days of the Goldfarb Library and which the University commemorated in a handsome volume: *The Genesis of American Freedom, 1765-1795*. Edited by Lawrence H. Leder (Publications of the Society of Bibliophiles, 1). Waltham, 1961. Shortly thereafter Mr. Sang contributed handsomely to the construction of the building devoted to the study of American Civilization and designated the Olin-Sang Hall. And not very long thereafter the library received some 34 letters or documents of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The scene and characters for the second act is the same but the time (as the program notes would say) is eight years later. In the summer of 1970 we learned that Mr. Sang had assembled the 21 additional letters needed to complete the set and would we please arrange to pick them up? Shortly thereafter, they joined their companions in the security of our rare book vault.

Few would quarrel with our conviction that the most intriguing gift of 1970 was the completion of the Philip Sang Collection of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. With the bi-centennial only five years away we now have a stellar piece for an exhibition on the American revolution. However, the Society of Bibliophiles will not have to wait that long for a view. One of the features of the annual meeting in June will be a private exhibition for those attending, giving others an occasion to join in our applause of Mr. Sang's persistence and generosity.

## ONE XYLOGRAPH AND TWELVE INCUNABLES LATER

Way back in the summer of 1963 the Society sponsored the appearance of *A descriptive catalogue of the incunabula of the Brandeis University Library*. Its origin is not without interest. That spring Professor Berkowitz, who was program chairman for the annual conference of the New England Renaissance Society, had obtained the co-operation of the Library in presenting an appropriate exhibition in the new Rapaport Treasure Hall. The late Louis Schreiber, then Director of the Library, in turn persuaded him to prepare a catalogue of the incunabula which served as a keepsake for those attending the conference. In this fashion was born the second title in the publications series of the Society.

That fall the Society's newsletter (Vol. II, No. 1) presented a hand list of the 22 incunables listed in the Berkowitz catalogue. Its list of recent acquisitions noted that a 23rd incunabulum, (Horatius, *Opera*, Strasbourg, 1498) the gift of Arthur Vershbow had arrived too late to be included in the main list. In the intervening eight years since the first hand list was printed, the Bibliophiles have individually presented twelve additional titles. To this we must add the 13th century Yuan xylograph, *Tsa A Han Ching* (Samyuktagama Sutra), a corporate gift of the Society, and the oldest printed book in the Library.

To complete the 1962 hand list we present below the additional thirteen titles. With the predecessor listing we now possess *in toto* one Oriental xylograph and 34 titles printed before 1501 from moveable type. Our pride in the present listing is somewhat chastened by embarrassment. We can identify donors only for 7 titles and for the other 6 our files are either silent or missing. This is then also a plea for help — and forgiveness too.

## Incunabula

## ALPHONSUS DE SPINA.

*Fortalitium fidei*. Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 1485.

Hain 873; Goff A541. Gift of Lewis K. and Elizabeth Land.

## ANGELUS CARLETUS, de CLAVASIO.

*Summa de casibus conscientiae*. Venice, Nicolaus de Frankfordia, 1487.

Hain 5383; Goff A715.

ANSELMUS, *St.*

*Opera*. Nuremberg, Caspar Hochfeder, 1491.

Hain 1134; Goff A759

## DURANTE, GUILLELMUS.

*Rationale divinorum officiorum.* Strasbourg, Johann Prüss, 1486.

Hain 6491; Goff D431.

## HORATIUS FLACCUS, QUINTUS.

*Opera.* Strasbourg, J. Reinhard, 1498.

Hain 8898; Goff H461. Gift of Arthur E. and Charlotte Vershbow.

## JOSEPHUS, FLAVIUS.

*De antiquitate Judaica.* Venice, A. Vercellensis, for Octavianus Scotus, 1499.

Hain 9455; Goff J487. Gift of Walter Goldwater.

## MARTYROLOGIUM.

*Martyrologium viola sanctorum.* Strasbourg, Johann Prüss, 1499.

Hain 10873; Goff M339.

Bound with

## POENITENTIONARIUS.

*Poenitas cito libellus iste nucupatur . . .* Cologne, Heinrich Quentell, 1492.

Hain 13160; Goff P844.

## PETRUS de PALUDE.

*Sermones thesauri novi de tempore.* Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 1496.

Copinger 5419; Goff P526.

## ROLEWINCK, WERNER.

*Fasciculus temporum.* Venice, Erhard Ratdolt, 1481.

Hain 6928; Goff R264. Gift of Arthur E. and Charlotte Vershbow.

## SCHEDEL, HARTMANN.

*Liber cronicarum.* Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 1493.

Hain 14508; Goff S307. Gift of the Society of Bibliophiles of Brandeis University.

## SCHEDEL, HARTMANN.

*Das buch der chronikon.* Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 1493.

Hain 14510; Goff S309. Gift of Lewis K. and Elizabeth Land.

## Xylograph

## TSA A HAN CHING

[*Samyuktagama Sutra.*] China, 1278-1294.

Gift of the Society of Bibliophiles of Brandeis University.



## IN SEARCH OF A DONOR: THE BRANDEIS SPANISH CIVIL WAR COLLECTION.

In the summer of 1936, one of the most idealistic wars in history erupted in Spain. Almost from its very inception, men and women the world over became embroiled in this conflict which was to last for three agonizing years. It finally came to an end five months prior to World War II, the outbreak of which overshadowed the importance of the Spanish Civil War in its historical perspective. The ideals, the issues and the repercussions stemming from this war have had a lasting effect on contemporary history and have constituted the central theme of thousands of books published on the subject.

Prior to 1968 the Brandeis University Library had not been especially involved in acquiring contemporary research materials on a large-scale. But in November 1968 we acquired from Walter Goldwater a nucleus collection of nearly 500 books and pamphlets (and some posters) on the Spanish Civil War. At the early stage funding came partially from some departmental budgets (especially History) and partially from Library funds. At the Bibliophile meeting in June 1969 considerable progress was reported in expanding the collection and also the collection of radical and social pamphlets. It was the consensus of the meeting that the Spanish civil war collection was a most desirable area for development.

The growth since then has been substantial. In the short span of two and a half years the acquisitions have jumped from 500 to over 2,500 books and pamphlets dealing with every aspect of the war. In view of the virtual disappearance of campus funding in the current year the over-all increase is doubly impressive.

In addition to the books and pamphlets, the outstanding feature of the collection is its unusual richness in ephemeral material. Besides the many posters, there are over 1,000 propaganda leaflets. Complementing this is a working collection of contemporary Spanish newspapers, photographs and news bulletins, including *El Alcazar*, the extremely rare bulletin issued daily in mimeograph form during the siege of this famous fort.

Some of the expansion has come from gifts rather than purchase. Among the benefactors are Mr. Arnold Silverman, of Goodspeed's Bookshop, Boston, Massachusetts; Dr. Harold Rosenberg of Great Neck, New York; Dr. James I. Loeb of Saranac Lake, New York; Dr. John P. Roche, Politics Department, Brandeis University; Miss Erna Polle of Perkinsville, Vermont; Mrs. Barbara Tuchman of New York City and Jose Nieto Ruiz of

New York City. Individual gifts include Joaquin Maurin of New York City, Henry M. Pachter of New York City and Ricardo Sanz of France. Gifts have also been received from Spanish and Swiss associations and we have a promise of an exchange of duplicates from libraries in Madrid.

Placed on deposit with the library for the use of researchers are the papers of the late Jesus Gonzalez Malo, former editor of *España Libre*, organ of the Confederated Spanish Societies of the United States. Also on deposit is the collection of the late Russell Blackwell, a former U.S. volunteer who fought in Spain on the side of the P.O.U.M.

As far as we know at this time there is at least one other collection in this country with more books and pamphlets. But size is not the sole criteria of excellence. Pending the completion of the new National Union Catalog, it is not possible to be definitive about the proportion of our holdings which are unique, but we have many items not recorded elsewhere. Significantly, in checking against Ricardo de la Cierva's standard bibliography, we find that approximately 10% of our holdings are not listed. When we add to this the large run of ephemeral material which is usually not catalogued, we begin to suspect that the Brandeis collection has some unusual aspects for research.

Finally, we are happy to note, our Spanish Civil war collection is served by a card catalogue. One of the lessons borne in on us from our other collections is that an uncatalogued collection is largely an unusable one. The catalogue has been a labor of love assumed by Victor Berch who has in the process converted himself into an expert on Spanish civil war literature. It is hoped that in the near future a catalogue can be issued, thereby providing the scholarly community elsewhere with a research tool that will make our collection more widely known and used.

With so much so well accomplished in such a short period, it is regrettable to have to end on a pessimistic note. The Library will of course continue to exploit the possibilities of individual gifts and deposits but the current budgetary outlook indicates a dim likelihood for help from departmental and Library funding. And saddest of all, we have been approached for the purchase of at least 8000 pieces in one lot (less duplicates). This acquisition would unquestionably put Brandeis in the premier class as far as this subject is concerned. And other smaller collections have been called to our attention as available. Somewhere there must be an individual or a group who could marshal the resources to capitalize on our foundation as well as making it self-sufficient for the future.

## TYPOGRAPHICA ARABICA

During February and March Rapaporte Treasure Hall housed an unusual exhibit of Arabic typography organized by Mr. Miroslav Krek, Acquisitions Librarian. The exhibition was held over through the meeting of the American Oriental Society in Cambridge, April 6-8.

For this occasion the holdings of the Library were augmented by reproductions and loans from friends. Only after the idea of the exhibition was conceived and a brief survey made, was it realized how much of the material was already held by the Library. This was a startling if pleasant discovery, since the Library has made no conscious effort to collect in the field of typography, let alone in Arabic typography. There were actually more items owned by the Library than could be exhibited, albeit, for the more recent periods.

The aim of the exhibit was to show — within the available resources — the development of printing with Arabic type in various countries, starting with the wood engravings, the precursor of printing in movable type, and extending to lithography. Among the outstanding specimens exhibited were Guillaume Postel, *Linguarum duodecim characteribus differentium alphabetum introductio*, Paris: Lescuier, 1538, a very early work on comparative linguistics and an excellent specimen of an Arabic text engraved in wood; *Id est Pentateuchus Mosis arabice*, 1622, an example of the types used by the famous Dutch orientalist Thomas Erpenius; and the London Polyglot Bible 1654-57 illustrating the exquisite Roycroft types.

Copies of Mr. Krek's scholarly catalogue, *Typographia Arabica*, were distributed to members of the Society of Bibliophiles in February.

## THE KARL KRAUS EXHIBIT

An exhibit devoted to the Viennese satirist Karl Kraus (1874-1936) was on view at the Rapaporte Treasure Hall of the Goldfarb Library during April. A reception on Saturday, April 17, 1971, 8 p.m., was held under the co-sponsorship of the Library and the Austro-American Association of Boston. Brief addresses were given by Dr. Harry Zohn, Professor of German and Chairman of the Department of Germanic and Slavic Languages at Brandeis, and Mr. Martin Jahoda, formerly of the firm of Jahoda & Siegel, the longtime printers of Karl Kraus' writings in



Vienna. The exhibit had been arranged by Miss Emilia Lange, exhibits director at Brandeis, and Dr. Zohn, whose study of Karl Kraus will be published later this year in the Twayne World Authors Series, New York. Dr. John has also published articles on Kraus in the *Satire Newsletter*, the *Jewish Quarterly*, the *Wiener Library Bulletin*, *Modern Austrian Literature*, and the *Zeitschrift für die Geschichte der Juden*.

Karl Kraus is widely regarded as one of the foremost German language satirists since Heinrich Heine. A legend in his lifetime, admired or vilified by many, he was a man who fashioned the imperishable profile of his time from newspaper reports and other highly perishable materials. A Jew by birth, he converted to Catholicism in 1911, but left the church again after the First World War. His was a powerful poetic voice in the dying decades of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the troublous years between the two world wars. Kraus' mammoth anti-war drama *Die letzten Tage der Menschheit* (The Last Days of Mankind), which is virtually unperformable, stamps him as one of the outstanding pacifists of this century. His works having been reissued in postwar Germany, Kraus is again widely read and discussed in Europe, yet he is virtually unknown in English-speaking countries, since only a very small fraction of his extensive literary output has appeared in English. Albert Bloch published his translation of selected poems, epigrams, and dramatic scenes in 1930, and in recent years W. H. Auden, a longtime admirer of Kraus, translated some of his aphorisms for the *Viking Book of Aphorisms*.

The Brandeis exhibit is based on the library's own Oskar Samek Collection of Krausiana, a donation of Dr. Samek, Kraus' attorney, friend, and literary executor, who died in New York in 1959 and willed the bulk of his distinguished library to the University. One of its highlights was the original manuscript, in Kraus's characteristic minuscule handwriting, of *Die Unüberwindlichen* (The Unconquerable), a play dating from the 'twenties in which Kraus, in the manner of the later German documentary drama, deals with political machinations and journalistic and legal corruption in Austria. The exhibit also includes numerous rare first editions of Kraus's works, some of them presentation copies; representative issues of *Die Fackel* (The Torch), the powerful satirical journal which Kraus edited from 1899 to 1936 and wrote all by himself for the last 25 years of his life; some of the programs for the 700 evenings on which Kraus read from his own works and those of others, often performing Shakespeare and adaptations of works by Jacques Offenbach and Johann Nestroy; books and articles about him in German and other languages;

plays and operettas in a one-man show; some of his translations from musical settings of Kraus poems; pictorial material; Kraus's death mask; a recently published comprehensive Kraus Bibliography; and other items.

The Krausiana collection at Brandeis is a rare instance where a modern author is fully represented for the student of literature and yet where the association and bibliophilic aspects intrigue the collector. All of us would be pleased if there were many more specific points of such richness in width and depth. But while we wait for the arrival of a library utopia, we are delighted that this exhibition called to attention Brandeis' primacy in Krausiana.

### THE LEONARD B. SCHLOSSER EXHIBIT ON PAPER HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY

As we go to press we are happy to announce that arrangements have been completed for a mid-May opening of an exhibition on paper history and technology, the materials exhibited being from the collection of Leonard B. Schlosser of Greenwich, Conn. A leaflet and hand-list will be made available to members of the Society and highlights of the exhibition will be noted in our next issue.

### THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING: JUNE 12, 1971.

The call for the first meeting of the Bibliophiles was contained in a letter to selected individuals, dated May 29, 1962, asking them to assemble on Sunday, June 10th. The group agreed to launch the organization and under its sponsorship another meeting was held on December 15th of that year. Thus when we convene again on June 12, 1971 we will have completed a full decade.

Anniversaries ought to be suitably marked but this one presents a quandary. According to the pretty young lady behind the desk marked Reference, the tenth anniversary is commemorated in tin or aluminum; or at least so claims the *World Almanac*. With some chemical license this could perhaps be translated into pewter. But then comes the bibliographic issue. Was a book ever printed on (not about) pewter? Since some puzzles are not worth solving, it may well be that the tenth anniversary can be more easily marked by a corporate gift of the Society in the more traditional fashion of a book printed on silk or even on paper.

## PUBLICATIONS

No formal titles were added to our Publications in the past year. However, as noted elsewhere copies of *Typographica Arabica* were distributed to our members. And as an experiment a circular containing current news items was mailed in November 1970 and February 1971. The present publication, *Octavo*, is another experiment in communication. It succeeds in part to the role once performed by *Bibliophiles* which had seven issues between May 1962 and June 1964. The first issue of *Bibliophiles* was launched as a consequence of the meeting noted above and in its short life helped to tie together those persons in and out of the University who were interested in the development of the special collections aspect of the Library. We hope that our new format, *Octavo*, which closes our first decade and ushers in the second, will have a longer run.

## MEMBERSHIP AND GIFTS

Arthur Vershbow, reporting for the Membership Committee announces that the following were elected members during 1970-71; Samuel R. Rosenthal of Chicago, Illinois; Henry Posner of Pittsburgh, Penna.; and Leonard B. Schlosser of Greenwich, Conn. This is the first evidence in some time of growth in our numbers. Despite the special efforts made to enroll women collectors, the report to date is one of failure. However, we are assured that the April issue of the Brandeis *Bulletin* which is mailed to our whole constituency of 100,000 will carry a special story on our membership campaign.

It should also be noted that gifts from members of the Society to the Library continue to arrive and as always are welcome. On some other occasion an effort will be made to list these accessions with due public acknowledgements. A retrospective exhibition of such gifts was held June 1-July 15, 1969 and a catalogue issued entitled *Libri Varii* but no round-up has been made since then. Under a new system introduced early in 1970 members receive an immediate acknowledgement and for recent gifts we are assured that the records are both current and complete. Thus there should be little difficulty in listing these items in some future publication.



## PERSONALIA

Bern Dibner, President of the Society of Bibliophiles, was recently elected to a two-year term as President of the Society for the History of Technology.

Arthur Vershbow participated in a recent Grolier Club exhibition. His address on that occasion, entitled "Four centuries of French book illustration: a collectors view" was published in that *Gazette of the Grolier Club*, n.s. no. 15 (February, 1971).

Edward Levy recently completed his term of office as President of the Horatio Alger Society of America.

David Berkowitz has just been elected President of the Waltham Community Foundation. This publicly-supported charitable trust is devoted to the management and distribution of philanthropic bequests contributing to the well-being of the Waltham area. Professor Berkowitz will be on sabbatical leave during the academic year 1971-72. He is scheduled to be in Washington, D.C. for six months, serving as a Senior Fellow at the Folger Shakespeare Library but his plans for the balance of the year are not yet established.

Maury Bromsen, recently in the news with his Kennedy acquisition, has established an endowment fund at the Boston Public Library in memory of his mother, Rose Eisenberg Bromsen (1885-1968). The income from the fund will maintain an annual lecture, for which the speaker will be selected by a committee of five. The Trustees, who have designated it the Maury A. Bromsen Lecture in Humanistic Bibliography, plan to inaugurate the series in 1972 in connection with the festivities organized to celebrate the dedication of their new building. There is every reason to believe that the lectures, which will also be published annually, will constitute a distinguished contribution to our understanding of the role which books have played in the evolution of western society and thought.

Justin G. Turner has forwarded a copy of a handsomely printed brochure he has written entitled "The Thirteenth Amendment and the Emancipation Proclamation" (Los Angeles, The Plantin Press, 1971). It reveals the kind of expertise expected from a collector-lawyer whose Lincolnia assemblage was the largest in private hands. An accompanying letter reveals a level of activity suggesting a considerable recovery from his recent illness.

## HOBSON'S CHOICE

Anthony Hobson. *Great Libraries*. London, Weidenfeld and Nicolson, c. 1970.

Anthony Hobson in this lavish and beautiful book has presented an overview of the history of the West in terms of the stories of a selection of its greatest libraries, ranging in time, which is the principle of organization of the list, from the Caputular Library of Verona to the Texas University Library. It is perforce a story of tragedies as well as triumphs, and Mr. Hobson's publishers in their statement of copyright, as though casting the gauntlet at the feet of the modern electronic world, have protected the book from storage "in a retrieval system" and have forbidden its transmission "in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the copyright owner." From its endpapers, which show an engraving by Cornelius Woudhanus of the chained library at Leyden University in 1610, through its pages reproducing one handsome and fascinating manuscript page, binding, or title page after another (as well as many photographs of library buildings, founders, and collectors) to its bibliography — entitled simply "Further Reading" — and its list of references and index, it is a treasure to which the bibliophile will gladly return time after time. It is as suitable for the coffee table as it is for the shelves, for its comfortable and agreeable style invites browsing. The color photographs alone are a feast.

The reader or even the browser will leave the book with an enhanced feeling of wonder at the enduring instinct in mankind to preserve his intellectual treasures at all costs at the same time that some of his species set their value at naught. It is also an illustration of the instinct which drives the book collector: the appetite for the unique or at least the "scarce" and which provides the grist for the mill of scholarship. Mr. Hobson quotes the Hellenist Juan Páez de Castro, chaplain to Philip II of Spain, as urging in a memorial to his royal master the founding of a public library, saying "It is no small advantage to have a possession which ennobles the Nation and persuades the principal scholars of the world to visit us."

Although he will hardly quarrel at the inclusions in this list of thirty-two great libraries of all kinds, each reader will regret that some others

have not been included. Such are the riches of the world of books and their repositories! But the range is impressive. There are abbey libraries such as St. Gall and Admont, there is the monastic library of St. John at Patmos, there is the Cathedral Library of Durham, the Royal Library of Brussels, Beatus Rhenanus' library at Sélestat, the Bibliothèque Nationale, the Bodleian, the Biblioteca Ambrosiana, the John Rylands Library, and the Pepys Library at Magdalene College — these for sampling of England and the Continent. The United States is represented by Harvard and its Houghton, Yale and its Beinecke, the Pierpont Morgan Library, the Huntington, and, as mentioned earlier, Texas. It is here that American book lovers will become wistful and wish that Mr. Hobson had been allotted more pages by his publisher. But perhaps we can hope for a sequel.

Information, presented in a charming way, is here in bounteous quantities, lightened and enlivened by anecdotes, some few of which will be new to every reader as others will be recalled to his memory. We are reminded that the chained library was a means of opening the library to the use of the "public," i.e., those who could read. The Harvard Library of 1766 was arranged by donors, cold comfort to the library executive tempted by an attractive gift with conditions upon it. The Yale Library believes that it may have in Elihu Yale's gift in 1714 of the *Speculum humanae salvationis* the first medieval illustrated manuscript to reach North America. Many will be interested in Mr. Hobson's admiring words describing the late William A. Jackson of the Houghton Library. And so on in superabundance.

The American reader will note here and there among the illustrations of European and English library architecture the sources of features and conceits which were introduced in American libraries by junketing architects, back in the days when honest imitation of fine things was not thought to be a sin against the canons of taste. Anyone familiar with the 'nave' of Yale's Sterling Library will see its prototype in the main hall of the John Rylands Library as shown in this book.

Anthony Hobson, who is known to the bookish world from his long association with Sotheby's, belongs to that honorable if small group of scholarly booksellers to whom book lovers owe a very great debt. In a busy life he has managed to give us such books as this and his *French and Italian Collectors and Their Bindings* and many a scholarly article. May his tribe increase!